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FLOOR DEBATE

January 25, 2002 LB 82A, 436

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Before we move on I want to give you a heads-up on a schedule change on the agenda this morning, probably right before noon we are going to take up a motion by Senator Raikes to suspend the rules to accommodate a public hearing change that we need to make. And we'll probably do that before we adjourn this morning. Mr. Clerk, we next move onto General File, LB 436...oh, there's an A bill, excuse me, LB 82A. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LB 82A, Mr. President, by Senator Brashear. (Read title.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Brashear, you're recognized to open on the A bill.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, I will be brief. This is fairly simple but important. That portion of LB 82, which you just advanced needs an A bill relating to changing sentencing provisions in misdemeanor cases. Under LB 82 those committing misdemeanors will be sentenced to county facilities only and not the Department of Corrections. The Department of Corrections estimates that that change will result in approximately 11 offenders per year being diverted from the Department of Corrections. There is a savings associated with that of \$24,904. I do understand that the Department of Corrections budget is enormous by comparison, and this is relatively minuscule, but nevertheless we are not adding cost, we are eliminating cost. And I would urge you to advance the A bill and save the \$24,904. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the A bill? Seeing none, Senator Brashear, you're recognized to close. He waives that opportunity. The question is the advancement of LB 82A. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. We're voting on the advancement of the A bill. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 82A.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The A bill advances. Now we move to General File. LB 436.